

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, PLO

SUBJ: FAO CONFERENCE - GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
(PLO)

REF : ROME 16245

1. AT OPENING PLENARY FAO PRIVATELY ADVISED US PLO
REPRESENTATIVE ROME HAD BY LETTER REQUESTED OFFICIAL
OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE ORGANIZATION. THIS WAS SURPRISE SINCE
FAO EARLIER THOUGHT PLO WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH BEING
ALLOWED PARTICIPATE UNDER GENERAL "UMBRELLA" OF NATIONAL
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IN GENERAL COMMITTEE US OPPOSED THE
APPLICATION AND ARGUED THAT IT APPEARED TO VIOLATE SEVERAL
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SECTIONS OF FAO RULES AND THAT AT VERY LEAST MATTER SHOULD

BE DELAYED PENDING A LEGAL OPINION. US WAS ONLY COUNTRY VOICING OPPOSITION AND PROPOSAL CLEARED COMMITTEE WITH US OPPOSITION NOTED. SPEAKING IN GC ON BEHALF PLO WERE GUINEA, FRANCE, INDONESIA, PRC, AND CONGO. WHILE COSTA RICA DID NOT OPENLY SUPPORT PLO, IT NOTED THIS WAS A MATTER FOR PLENARY DECISION.

2. WHEN ISSUE COULD NOT BE STOPPED IN GENERAL COMMITTEE, US CONTACTED A NUMBER OF WEO'S (UK, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, BELGIUM AND FRG) AND FOUND NONE WILLING TO JOIN US IN OPPOSING PROPOSED ACTION. WE WORKED CLOSELY WITH ISRAEL, ADVISING THEM OF RESULTS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE. ISRAEL FELT NO PURPOSE WAS SERVED BY REQUESTING A VOTE AGAINST THE ACTION AND THIS WAS WELCOMED BY CANADA WHICH BECAUSE OF ITS DG CANDIDATURE WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ABSTAIN. FEEL CERTAIN ONLY US AND ISRAEL WOULD HAVE VOTED AGAINST PROPOSAL.

3. IN PLENARY, CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL RECALLED DECISION OF 66TH COUNCIL THAT THROUGH OAU, THE DG SHOULD INVITE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 18TH CONFERENCE. HE REPORTED LETTER RECEIVED FROM PLO REPRESENTATIVE AND SAID GENERAL COMMITTEE, WITH ONE MEMBER OBJECTING HAD RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE PLO REQUEST. WHEN THE CHAIR ASKED FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CONFERENCE, ISRAEL AMBASSADOR TO ITALY SPOKE.

4. ISRAEL, HE SAID, WISHED TO RECORD ITS OPPOSITION TO PLO PARTICIPATION IN ANY CAPACITY. HE CALLED THE PLO A TERRORIST GROUP AND SAID NOT ONLY WAS IT TRYING TO DENY ISRAEL ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS BUT IT WAS SUPPORTING THE MURDER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. FAO'S PURPOSE HE SAID WAS TO SOLVE THE FOOD PROBLEM, THAT MEMBERS WERE NOT IN ROME TO SUPPORT KILLING AND THE BURNING OF CROPS. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED PLO'S DECLARED AIM AS DIRECTLY COUNTER TO THE PURPOSES OF FAO. HE CALLED THE RECENT UN RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM AS ABSURD AND REFERRED TO EARLIER ACTION IN UNESCO AND ILO AS SAD AND IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF RULES. REFERRING TO FACT CONFERENCE WAS BEING FACED AT OPENING SESSION WITH REQUEST FROM ORGANIZATION WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS MURDER, HE CALLED UPON THOSE WHO CARE FOR RIGHT AND THE PRINCIPLES OF FAO TO SPEAK UNCLASSIFIED

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OUT. HE SAID IT IS NOT ISRAEL WHICH WILL SUFFER FROM PLO PARTICIPATION BUT RATHER THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY AROUND THE WORLD.

5. IN ITS SPEECH THE US QUESTIONED THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE PLO REQUEST AND WHETHER FAO'S RULES ALLOWED SUCH PARTICIPATION. WE CITED FAO'S LONG HISTORY OF SERVICE TO THE HUNGRY AND NOTED THE DANGER INVOLVED IN DIGRESSING INTO POLITICAL AREAS.

IN OPPOSING PLO PARTICIPATION THE US CALLED ATTENTION TO ITS LONG RECORD OF OPPOSING THE PARTICIPATION OF LIBERATION GROUPS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNED WITH NON-POLITICAL MATTERS. WE OBSERVED THAT OUR OPPOSITION TO PLO PARTICIPATION IN FAO DID NOT MEAN A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINEAN PEOPLES OR A CHANGE IN OUR POLICY TOWARDS ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

6. THE DELEGATE OF GUINEA THEN SPOKE TO CONGRATULATE THE COUNCIL ON ITS DECISION. HE SAID THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS DID NOT REFLECT REALITY AND FALSIFIED HISTORY. WHO WERE THE ASSASINS HE QUESTIONED - THE PALESTINEANS OR THOSE WHO CAME TO THROW THEM OUT. ZIONISM, HE FELT, WAS SOWING TERROR THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST WHEREAS THE PALESTINEANS DESIRE PEACE, LIBERTY AND THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID THE SAME PEOPLE WHO CAUSED PROBLEMS IN VIET NAM WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDDLE EAST DIFFICULTIES. THE FACT THAT ONLY TWO VOICES WERE RAISED IN OBJECTION TO THE PLO PROVED ITS RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE. THE DELEGATE OF GUINEA SPOKE OF THOSE WHO WERE TRYING TO DIVIDE THE 3RD WORLD AND SAID ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN FAO. THEY SHOULD BE AIDED BY THOSE WORKING FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE SAID THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE FIGHTING FOR THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE AND "REPRESENT US." HIS SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY APPLAUSE.CALINGAERT

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